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ABSTRACT

This document offers collected information about Opportunity-to-Learn Standards, which are intended to provide a framework that makes it possible for all students to have equitable access to high-quality education. The first two sections outline why Opportunity-to-Learn Standards are necessary and what they should do. The Summary states that Opportunity-to-Learn Standards should provide: time for students to learn and reflect; time for teachers to plan, teach, and reflect; appropriate learning resources; and resources from the community. A letter confirms the support of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education for the Standards. A list of organizations represented at the Opportunity-to-Learn/Delivery Standards Conference concludes the document. (SR)

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Opportunity-To-Learn: Standards Statement of Principles

Presented by
The National Council of Teachers of English

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CS 217 423

OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN

STANDARDS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

At a 1994 conference on Opportunity-to-Learn Standards, sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, participants agreed that opportunity-to-learn standards provide a framework that makes it possible for all students to have equitable access to high-quality education.

WHY ARE OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN STANDARDS NECESSARY?

The opportunity to learn is the inherent right of every child in America. Educators, parents, and other members of a child's many communities share a common interest in the educational success of each child and in the role of education in our democratic society. Full, positive participation in democracy is contingent upon every child's access to quality education. Such access to high-quality education should not be dependent upon the specific community in which a child lives. By focusing and building upon the strengths of learners, Opportunity-to-learn standards can help ensure equitable access to high-quality education for all students in America.

WHAT SHOULD OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN STANDARDS DO?

Opportunity-to-learn standards should:

enable all students to achieve high content standards and learn to their full potential

be directly tied to students' learning and performance in content standards

consider the diverse, multiple ways students learn

enable all teachers to teach all students

be supported by the best classroom practice and research

include on-going professional development of educators

be based on research on how effective schools use resources

address necessary conditions and resources for successful learning in our schools as well as effective use of resources, including safe, secure environments free of prejudice and violence; attractive, comfortable environments that invite learning, risk taking, and problem solving; updated library media centers and technologies

consider opportunities for preschool and beyond school learning

Opportunity-to-learn standards at their best should reflect America's commitment to equitable access to high-quality education for all students. States and schools that meet Opportunity-to-learn standards will enable students to become lifelong learners and lead productive, rewarding lives.

SUMMARY

Opportunity-to-learn standards should provide:

time for students to learn and reflect

time for teachers to plan, teach, and reflect

appropriate learning resources

resources from the community

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES

FOR TEACHER EDUCATION

November 8, 1995

Dr. Miles Myers Executive Director National Council of Teachers of English 1111 W. Kenyon Road Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Miles:

AACTE had been asked to consider support for the statement developed by NCTE concerning Opportunity-to-Learn Standards. AACTE's Board of Directors reviewed the NCTE statement at its fall 1995 meeting, and I am pleased to inform you that our Board voted to support the statement.

Our Board and various AACTE committees have engaged in numerous discussions over the past few years concerning the issues raised by the "opportunity-to-learn" concept. We appreciate the leadership role taken by NCTE in developing this statement, and look forward to continued work with your organization and other associations in helping prepare teachers to support student learning.

Sincerely,

David C. Imig Chief Executive Officer AACTE

NCTE

Opportunity-to-Learn/

Delivery Standards Conference

Embassy Row Hotel

Washington, D.C.

July 29-31, 1994

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

Alliance for Curriculum Reform

Brooks Associates, Educational Consultants

College Language Association

International Reading Association

Music Educators National Conference

National Association for Bilingual Education

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

National Council for Geouaphic Education

National Council for the Social Studies

National Council of Teachers of English

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Middle School Association

National Parent Teachers Association

National Science Teachers Association

Speech Communication Association

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

National Council of Teachers of English

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